(2) the canals and tanks necessary for irrigation should be resuscitated;

(3) locks and dams should be provided in the canals such as at Attayam and Aryakapilli in the Mulavur canal;

(4) an agricultural demonstration farm should be opened at Muvattupuzha;

(5) agricultural loans should be issued by the Agricultural Department as well;

(6) minor irrigation works should be entrusted to the Agricultural Department; and

(7) a veterinary hospital should be opened at Muvattupuzha.

With reference to minor irrigation works, particularly, the member stated that Government were practically neglecting the Muvattupuzha taluk, while they were spending large amounts in South Travancore. Government had indeed sanctioned Rs. 1400 for one *chira* in the taluk, but that was nothing when compared with the volume of work which remained to be done. A committee should be formed of representatives from the taluk and the necessary works should be executed in accordance with their proposals. Incidentally, the member made reference to the paucity of roads in his taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joseph Katanar, the subject you have named for your representation was stated in such vague and general terms that I could not anticipate what you were going to ask for and therefore cannot give replies here to every point of your representation. Most of them will be taken up and considered during the course of the year.

You spoke of more forest areas being thrown out of reserves and being made available for cultivation. This point will be considered in connection with the Neriamangalam Pallivasal road.

You complain that only very few roads were constructed last year. There are, I speak from memory, at least two new roads under construction now in Muvattupuzha taluk.

You refer to minor irrigation which you want to be transferred to the Director of Agriculture. Upon this point I would refer you to paragraph 12 of my address to the Assembly. The question of improving the work in that direction is already engaging the attention of the Government.

Then you refer to the difficulty in obtaining water for cultivation. At the request of the people of Muvattupuzha the Director of Agriculture recommended a cheap pump to pump up water from the wells. This contrivance will be taken round and shown to the people of the place.

33. Development of agriculture.

MR. P. PHILIPOSE (*Member, Municipal Council, Haripad*) said that the *virippu* fields in Central Travancore had two or three crops every year. The natural fertility of the soil was thus being exhausted. To make up for this, artificial manures had to be applied. But the manures commonly available in the market such as ammonium sulphate were costly and at the same time not of much use. Care had therefore to be taken to check the export of punnac, fish manure etc., from the State. The export of these kinds of manure had in fact to be prohibited entirely.

Equally important was the conservation of irrigation tanks and channels. Many of the old tanks and channels had been encroached upon by land-holders. Such encroachments had to be prohibited and the Agricultural Department had to be made responsible for providing more channels and tanks. A competent irrigation engineer could very well be attached to the department. One or two specific instances were given by the member of the hardships caused to the ryots of Karthikapally for want of a proper system of irrigation in the taluk. The crops in the *Mundakan* fields from Kirikad to Thottapally, to the east of the Kayancolam backwaters, had been failing regularly for the last four or five years owing to brine water finding its way into the fields. This could be easily averted by providing a bund or a lock in the

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Karthikapally canal and lakhs of paras of paddy could be saved every year. One of the places where a lock was necessary was at Poothottamuttu in the Karthikapally canal. In former times a bund used to be provided here for protecting the adjacent paddy cultivations, but this was recently being neglected. A dam in the Kulakkada river was another urgent need. By attending to these works, extensive areas of paddy fields could be protected.

While on this point, reference was made by the member to the practice prevalent in some places of owners of small areas of paddy fields in the middle of large fields converting the areas into cocoanut gardens. This was very harmful as the surrounding fields would be rendered useless thereby. The member suggested that such conversions of paddy fields should be prohibited by legislation.

The member next spoke about diseases of cocoanut trees and said that unless a speedy remedy was found out for these diseases cocoanut plantations in Central Travancore wood soon disappear. The measures advocated by the Agricultural Department for combating the disease were in no way effective. People could ill afford to wait till the department made more experiments and found out an effective cure. It would be wiser to get down an expert scientist from any part of the world to investigate the causes of the diseases and to find out the remedies for them.

The holding of agricultural conferences was another measure suggested by the member in furtherance of the development of agriculture in the State. The Dewan, the Dewan Peishkars, the Tahsildars, and the officers of the Agricultural Department should be present at these conferences. A commission should also be appointed to enquire into the present condition of agriculture in the State.

Among other measures suggested were the reclamation of the Kayancolam backwaters for paddy cultivation and opening of cattle-farms in all taluks. It was also suggested that the officers of the Agricultural Department should do more circuiting work and try to render better help to the cultivators.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Philipose, you refer in the course of your representation to manures and you point out that ammonium sulphate is of no use in Karthikapalli. Upon that point, let me read out to you from paragraph 6 of Chapter VIII of the Administration Report.

"The application of sodium nitrate and kainit in addition to oil cake and fish manure produced the best results in the case of cocoanut." If you want further advice and help in the matter the Director of Agriculture will be only too happy to go there and help you.

You also referred to the disease from which cocoanut trees suffer badly. In fact I think you consider that to be the most important feature of your representation since your taluk is so largely dependent upon cocoanut trees. Upon this point let me draw your attention to paragraph 9 of Chapter VIII of the Administration Report. I do not quite know which particular form of disease your part of the country suffers from.

MEMBER: Mandapuzhu.

DEWAN: Well, you see there are various other forms of diseases some of which also I presume occur in your place. There is the leaf-roller disease, the rhinoceros-beetle disease, the leaf-rotting disease, the stem-bleeding disease and the worst of all, in your taluk, the root disease. "Investigation as to the causation of the most serious of all diseases, the root disease, was continued throughout the year with no positive results." They are still experimenting and making investigations and hope to discover some means of counteracting the effects of the *Mandapuzhu* during the course of the year.

You also referred to brine finding its way into paddy fields from the Kayancolam lake and ruining cultivation. I will ask the Chief Engineer in company with the Director of Agriculture to go to the spot and see whether any means could be devised to remedy that.

Then you put up a plea for converting the whole of the Kayancolam lake into land fit for cultivation. I beg of you to leave us one or two lakes at least. For one thing, where do you expect the rivers to flow into and retain fresh water for the

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country if lakes are all reclaimed and cultivated? There will be no room for river water to spread and we do not know what course rivers will take and what ravages rivers may cause. Best, in these matters, leave Nature alone and do not interfere with it.

34. Fisheries Department.

MR. A. GOVINDAN ARAYAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the existing rules for the issue of industrial loans did little help to the fishing industry. The Fisheries Department was in the first place independent of the Industries Department which had the control of industrial loans. Secondly, industrial loans were issued only on the security of immovable property, and fishermen as a rule had no immovable properties. They had therefore to take loans from a class of money-lenders who lent money at unconscionably high rates of interest. In some places the money was lent on condition that the borrower would give all his fish to his creditor. The latter fixed the price for the fish and the poor fisherman had to accept it. Yet another practice was for the fisherman debtor to take the loan on condition that he would give a share of his profits to the money-lender. Instances were also common in which the fishermen had to mortgage all their implements and accessories for a loan. This kind of indebtedness sapped the whole vitality of the fishing industry. It was therefore very necessary that a system of fishery loans should be instituted on the lines indicated in the memorandum submitted by the Araya Service Society to the Government in 1102.

Another suggestion which the member had to make was the appointment of honorary fishery inspectors who would do propaganda work among fishermen about improved methods of fishing, maintenance of public health etc. Such work was done to a certain extent in the previous year by the Araya Service Society at Karunagapally and it had very good results. Honorary inspectors, if appointed by Government, would be able to do the work better.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Govindan Arayan, if you will be so kind as to give me a copy of your printed representation, I will have it carefully gone into point by point.

For the present, I might just mention that the question of honorary inspectors of fisheries has come to my notice once before and from enquiries I made I learn that the Araya fishermen, a very independent class of people, resent interference by people who are not under Government control and who are not Government authorities. Honorary gentlemen cannot carry out their duties in much the same way as a Government officer can. I do not want anything that may be looked upon as undue interference.

The other point is about loans to the fishing industry. I will take up that matter in consultation with the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and see whether it could be improved so far as the fishing industry is concerned.

35. Roads and canals in the Pattanamtitta taluk.

MR. V. I. CHACKO (*Member, Pattanamtitta taluk*) said that though the area of the Pattanamtitta taluk was about 989 square miles, the total length of roads in the taluk was only 100 miles, of which only 11 miles were metalled. The remaining portions were in very bad condition. The member therefore requested, first, that the following roads might be metalled :—

(*a*) Pattanapuram—Ranni road ;
(*b*) Kumpazha—Kozhancherry road ;
(*c*) Pattanamtitta—Kaippattur road.

Secondly, the member referred to the Mavelikara-Sabarimala road. From Aranmula to Sabarimala, this road ran through dense forests at certain places and for some distance along the banks of the Pampa river. This was a road which was of great use to the people resorting to the Kozhancherry hospital and to the Munsiff's court and the Magistrate's court at Chengannur. In the rainy season when the river flooded, the road become entirely useless. Having regard to the importance and the usefulness of the road, the member requested that it might be widened.

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